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THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry
ISSN 0954-9390
26
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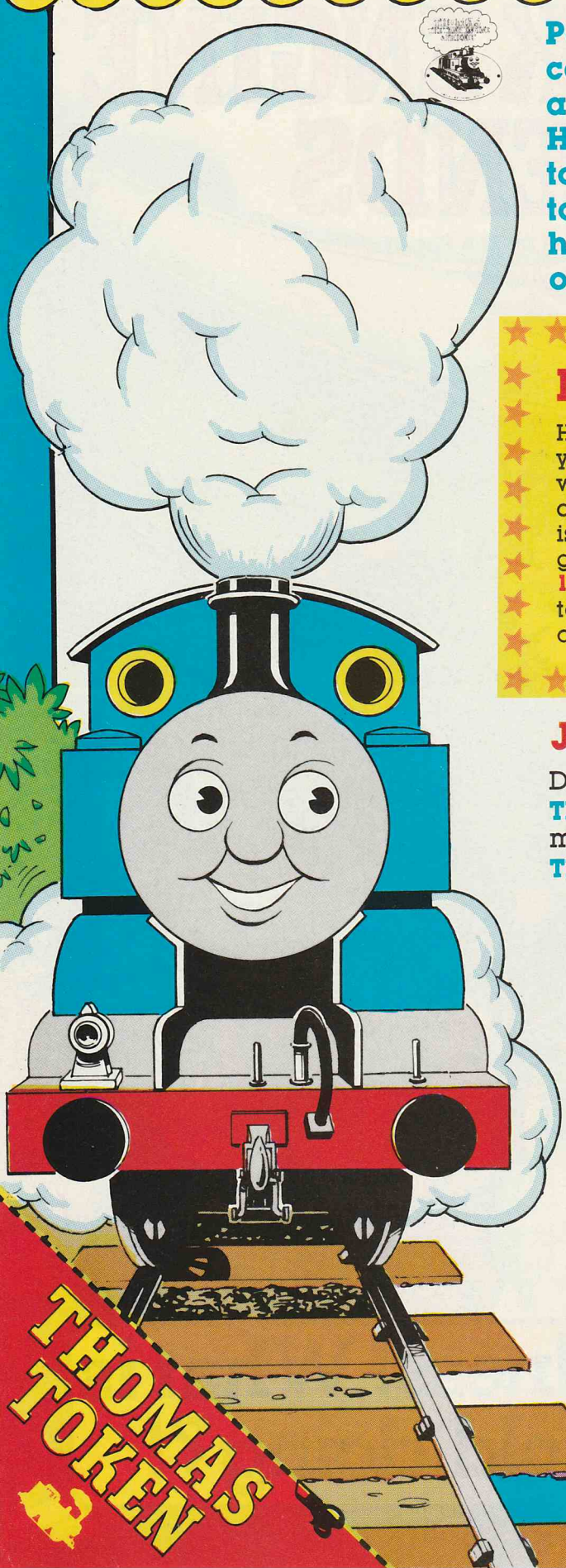
Goodness! What is Harold doing?!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! Oh, dear . . . some careless campers on the Island of Sodor have accidentally started a fire in the forest! Harold the Helicopter must be sent for – to fly high above the fire and drop water to put the fire out! Hurry Harold, hurry . . ! Peep! Peep! The story begins on the next page!

NEW STAR LETTER PRIZES!

Have you got an interesting question or story that you would like to send to the Fat Controller? If so, why not send it in and at the same time have a chance of winning a splendid **Thomas the Tank Engine lunchbox and carry flask** from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd*, to the sender of any letter that is chosen and printed as our **STAR LETTER!**

JOIN THE THOMAS CLUB!

Details of taking out a year's subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine and becoming a member of the **Thomas Club** can be found on page 16!

In our next issue: Daisy and the cows!

THOMAS TOKEN

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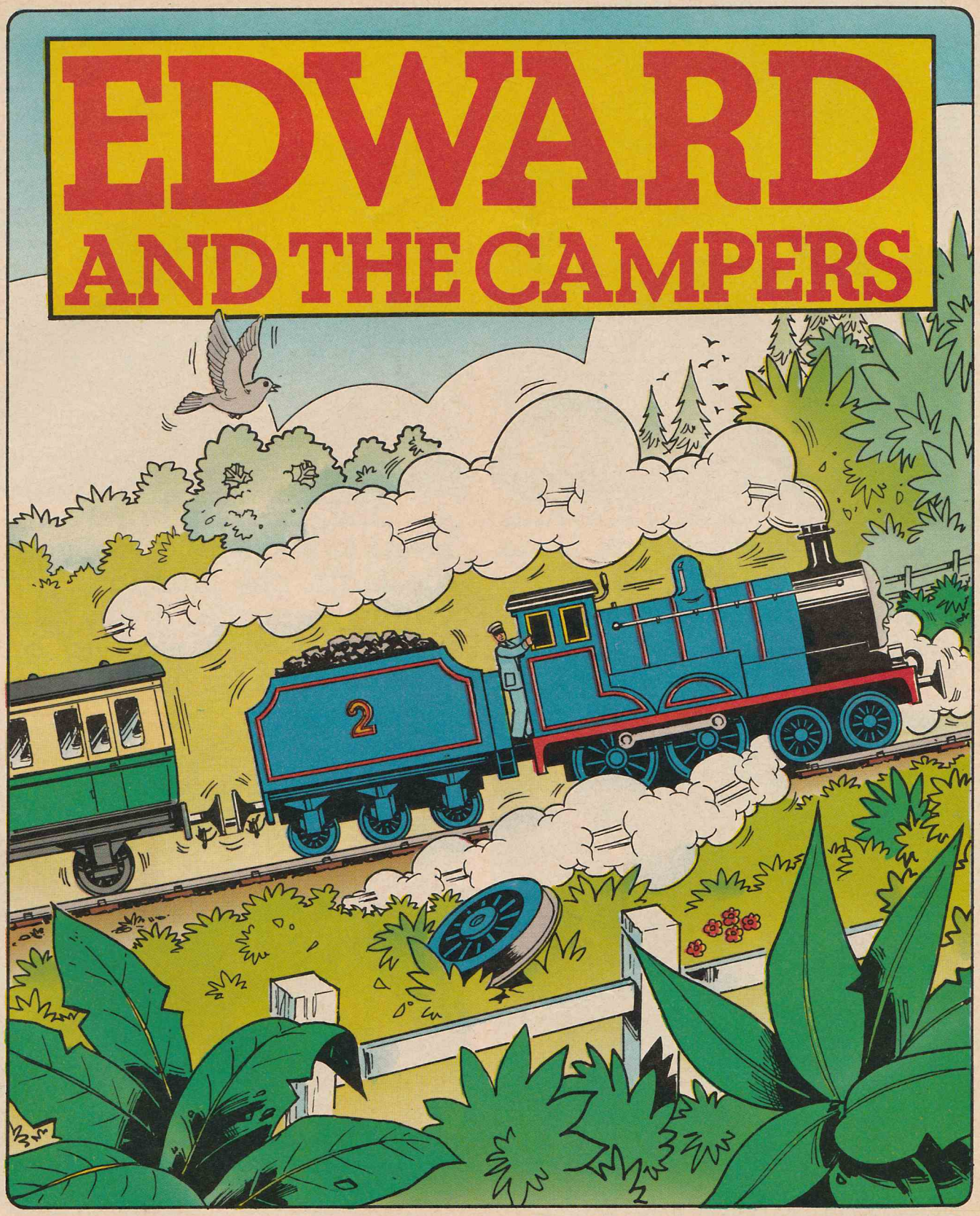
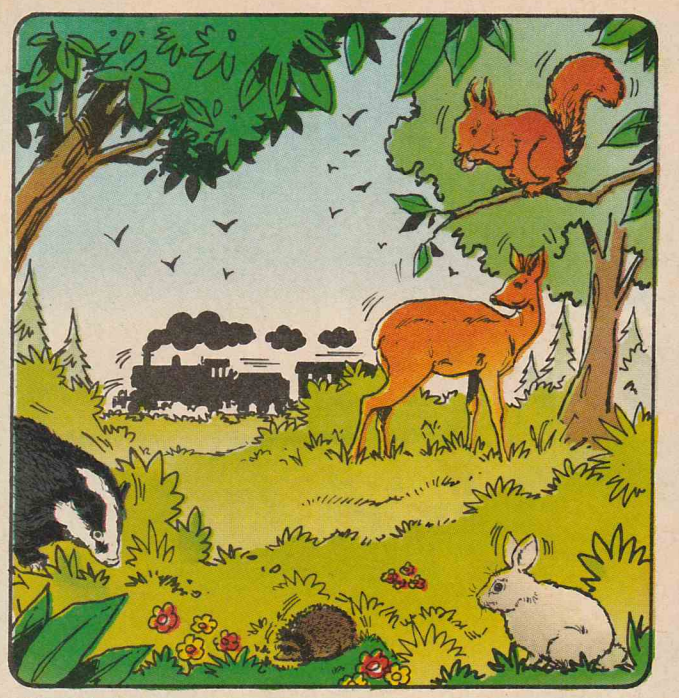
ABC

A listen and look story!



1. Edward is a kind engine. He never bumps his trucks or coaches. He rarely argues with the other engines and always has a friendly word to say to everyone.

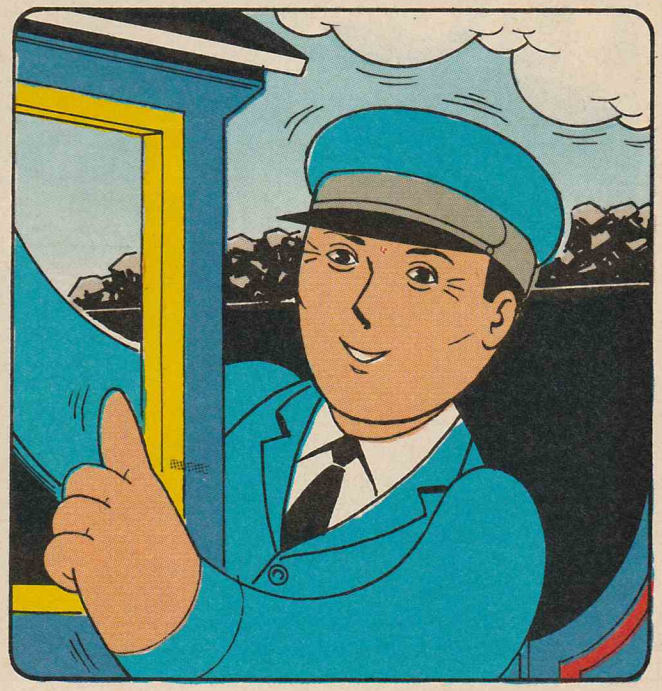
2. Edward has his own branch line on the Island of Sodor of which he is very proud. Edward is happiest when he pulls passenger trains on his branch line.



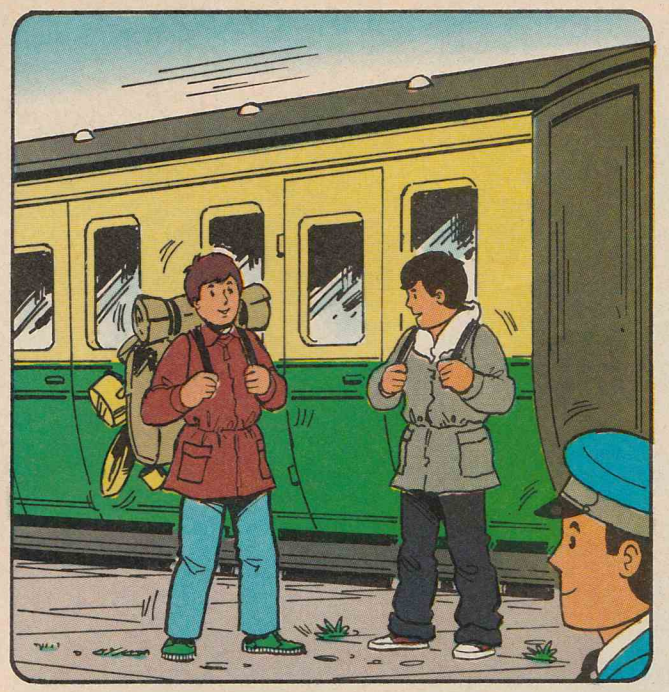
3. Edward's branch line runs over hills and through some beautiful woods. There are rabbits and foxes, hedgehogs and badgers, deer and many birds living there.

4. One morning Edward came to his first station, near the main line junction. Two young people from the mainland were waiting on the platform for his train.

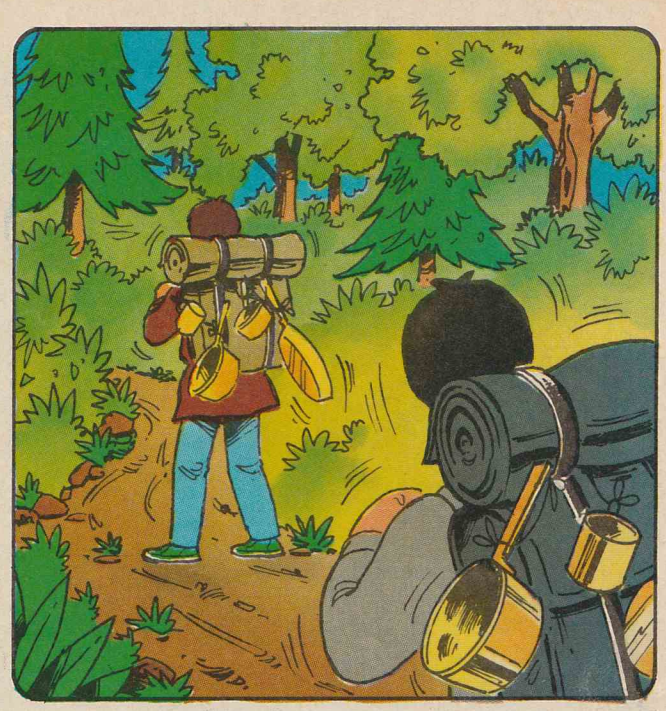
5. They had big backpacks with all kinds of things on them, like pots and a kettle and something rolled up on the top. They would have to put them in the guard's van.



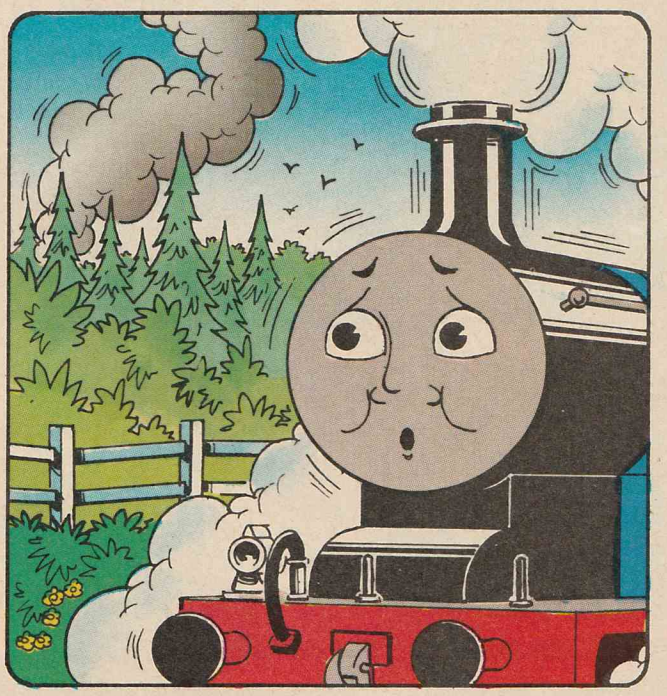
6. "I wonder where they are going with all that luggage?" said Edward. "They must be going camping," replied Edward's driver.



7. Edward continued on his way. One of the stations on his branch line is just on the edge of the big woods. This is where the campers decided to get off.



8. They put their packs on their backs and set off on the footpath that lead into the woods. "I hope they don't get lost," said Edward's driver.



9. The next day as Edward was passing the woods he saw smoke coming from behind the trees. "Is that a campfire?" shouted Edward's driver to the fireman.

10. "There's too much smoke for a campfire," said Edward's driver. "It looks as if it is a forest fire!" At the little station by the woods, the driver raised the alarm.

11. The fire was burning quite strongly and was too hot to approach. Harold the Helicopter was called to help put the fire out. He had a special tank full of water attached to him. By hovering over the flames and pouring out the water, Harold was soon able to put out the fire! The two campers both looked very worried.

12. The campers had started the fire by accident. "We thought our campfire was put out," they explained. When the policeman arrived he was very cross. "You must be more careful when lighting campfires in a forest in future," he said sternly. Everyone was pleased that Harold had saved their woods.

THE END

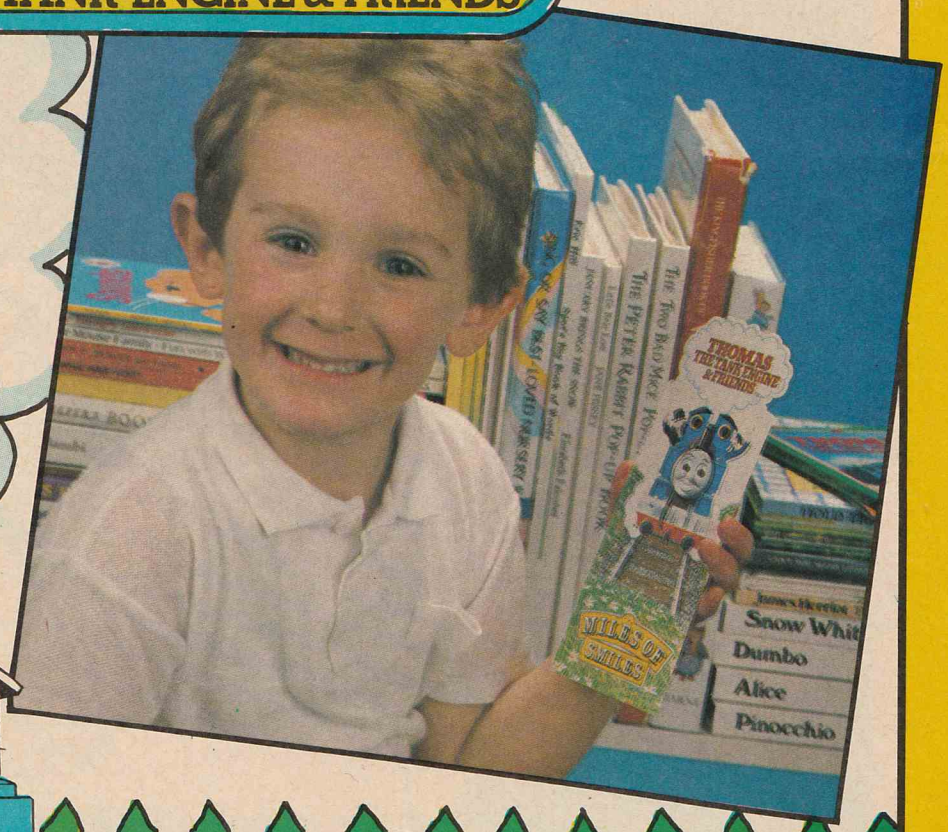
In our next issue: Daisy and the cows!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

IT'S FUN TO LEARN WITH

THOMAS

THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



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With Issue 9
On sale from
28 June 1990

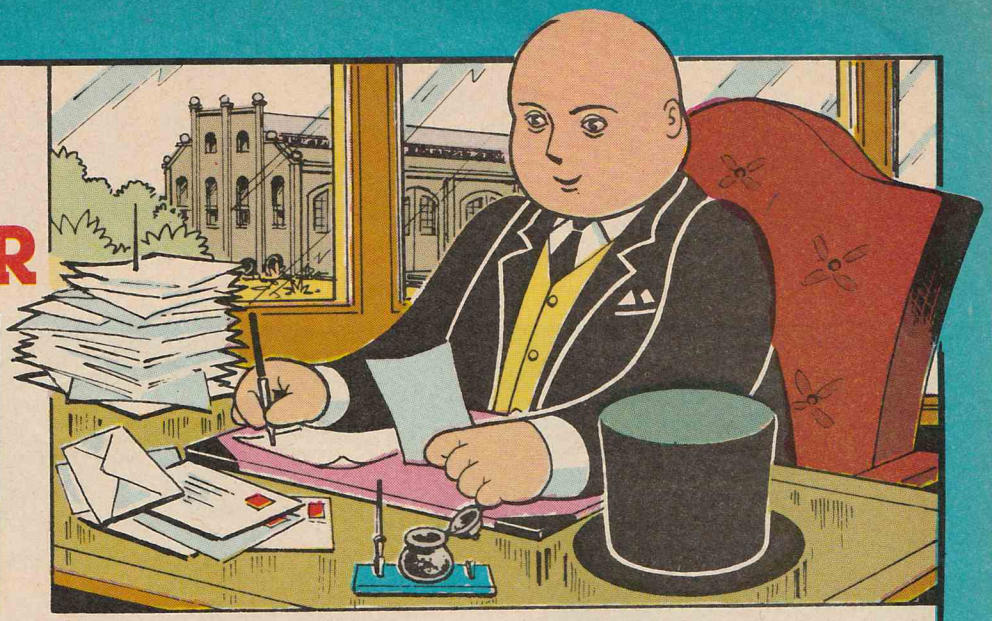
A SPLENDID BOOKMARK JUST FOR YOU!

It's Fun to Learn with Thomas~every month!

JOIN THE DOTS!

Join the dots to find out how many boxes the guard is loading into the goods van!

Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I went for a ride on the Ffestiniog steam railway. It was great! The engine that pulled our coach looked just like **Thomas the Tank Engine.** Have you ever been on this railway?

Love from **Neil,** aged 5.

Yes, I have . . . and I wholeheartedly agree with you, Neil! The Ffestiniog steam railway is a most fascinating and enjoyable railway indeed!

★★★★★★★★★

Neil wins a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine lunchbox and flask from Bluebird Toys (UK)

FEELING POORLY!

Dear Fat Controller,
When Thomas is ill, does he have to stay in bed? When I am ill, Mummy makes me stay in bed until I am better!

From **Anthony,** aged 4.

Indeed, your Mummy is very sensible to make you rest until you have fully recovered. However, if Thomas or any other of my engines ever feel ill, it is normally because their parts have become worn or even cracked! In which case they are sent off to the workshop at Crewe – for a thorough overhaul!

FAVOURITE PETS!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do you keep any pets? I have two dogs, a cat and a snowy white rabbit!

From **Julie,** aged 4.

Upon my soul! *You must be kept very busy indeed when it comes to feeding time! As for my wife and I, we have a pet budgerigar. His name is Billy!*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go out to:

Matthew Thomas Hanlon (28692), Stuart Smart, Laura Trench, Christopher Williams, Anthony Wraith (18692), Simon Ackland (32528), David Jones, Natalie Marie Storry (19246), Adam Greetham, James Cristopher Smith, Gary Cripps (32860), George Bailes, Jerremy Ruffles (6550), Paul Simpkins, Emilio Racioppi (28564), Charlie Hayter (29680), Louise Barrow, Jacob Pye (19318), Simon Robert Hardie, Adam Brown (32249), Terry Wright, Kelly Louise Coyston, James Edward Warner (20376), Kevin Swindells (5531), Marina Staples, James Michael Cox, Gareth Price (8094), Michael Stuart Beckett, Timothy Gardiner (32297), Michael Williams (20612), Neil Edward Rendell, Ben Williams (30090) and Jordan Barnard.

A special belated birthday greeting goes to a very keen Thomas fan indeed – **Helen Knowles!**

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot **promise** to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Past the po

Which engine has stopped at the signal?

Point to something else with the same name!

What colour is the engine?

What colour are the poppies?

How many swa

Point to a little

Is the butterfly

Is the cyclist g

ppyfield!

swallows can you see?

little mouse!

erfly flying?

ist going up or down the hill?

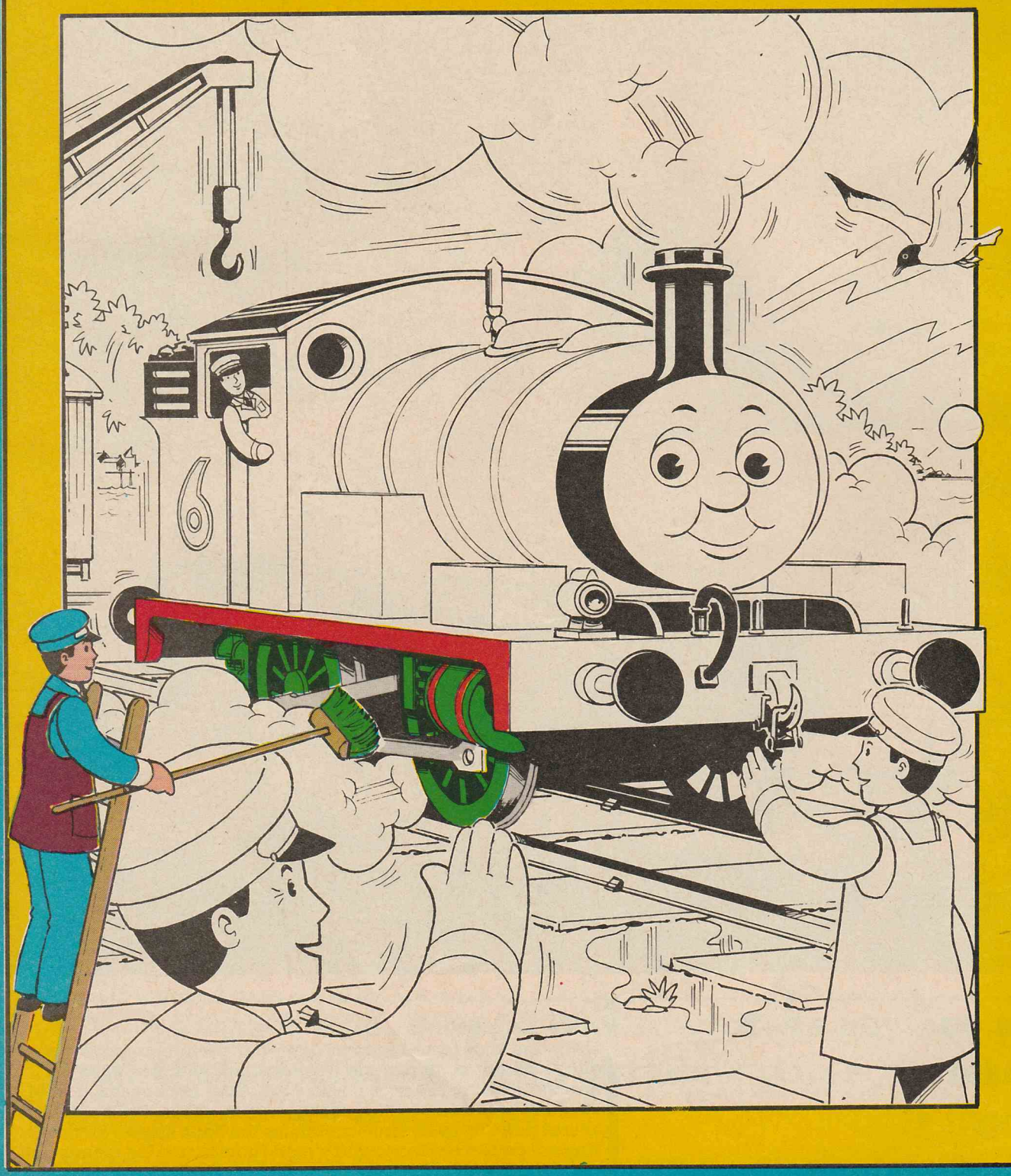
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Into the workshop!

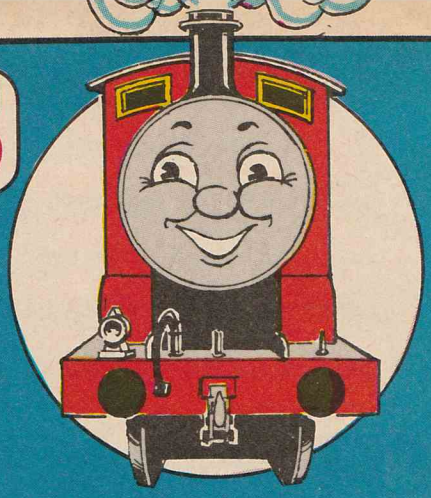
COLOURING TIME!

Percy is working down by the sea
Now colour him in – as bright as can be!



JAMES'S JAPES

Have you got a favourite joke? James would love to hear it. Send it to him at the address on the letters page!



What do you do if you find a blue banana?
Try to cheer it up!
Matthew, aged 6.

What do cats read every morning?
Mewspapers!
Simon, aged 6.

Why did the man throw his watch out of the window?
To see if time could fly!
Nathan, aged 4.

What's a crocodile's favourite game?
Snap!
Michael, aged 5.

How do you start a flea race?
One, two, flea . . . go!
Jonathon, aged 4.

NEWSAGENT'S FORM

Do you often find that **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** is sold out at your local newsagents? Well, here's a way of making sure of your copy every fortnight – just fill in the form below and hand it to your newsagent! He will then order it regularly especially for you!

Dear Newsagent,
Please save/send me a copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight! Thank you!

Name .....

.....

Address .....

.....

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Signature of parent or guardian .....

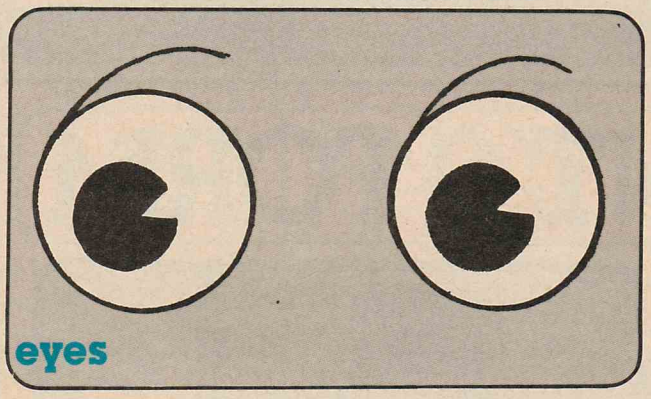
.....

A read-aloud story!

Mind your Si

Thomas is a Really Useful Engine most of the time but occasionally he can be very cheeky and this often leads him into trouble!

One day Thomas was working on his branch line, pulling his two coaches, Annie and Clarabel. Thomas wanted to have some fun!



eyes

"I know my branch line backwards," Thomas boasted. "Every wiggle and every bump!"

"Well, I'm glad you're not driving backwards," said Clarabel, "because you wouldn't be able to see where you were going and I would be at the front instead of the back!"

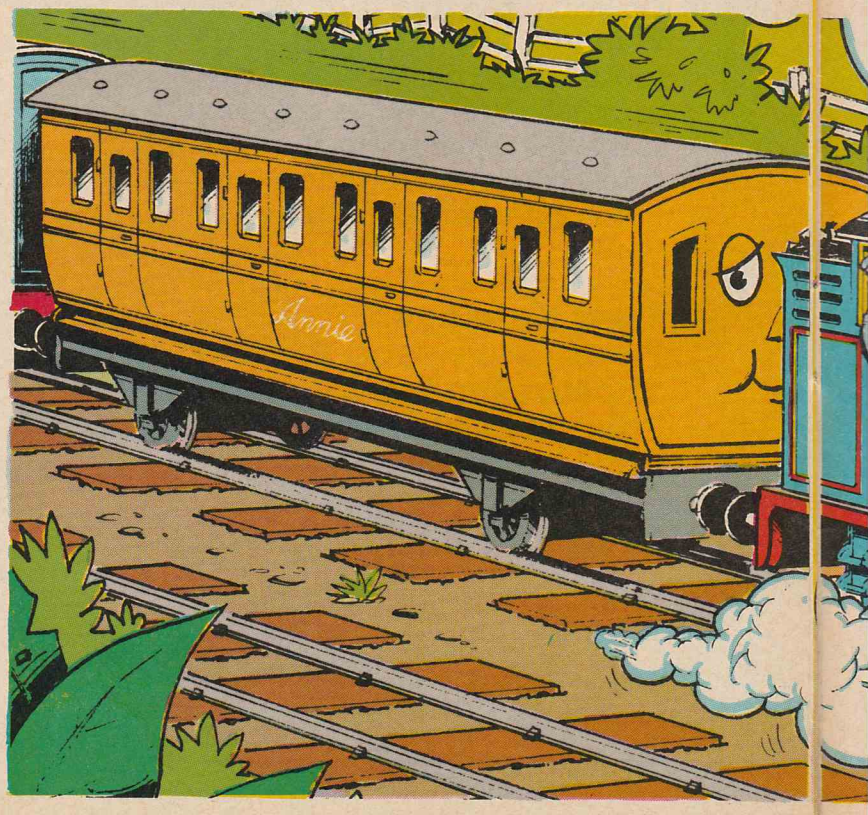
"Oh yes, that would be dangerous," agreed Annie.

As they were approaching the station, the signals changed to yellow telling Thomas to slow down. Thomas came to a stop at the station platform to let his passengers off.

When Thomas left the station, he started to boast again.

"Peep! Peep!" whistled Thomas. "I could! I could!"

"You could what?" asked Annie.



ignals!

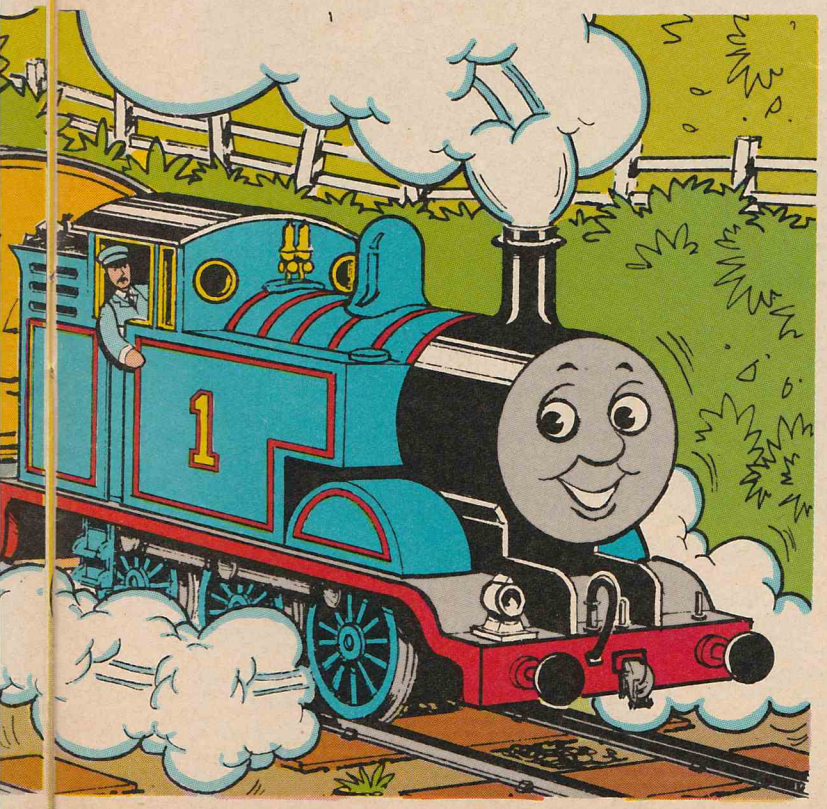
"I could run my branch line without looking!" said Thomas. "I'll show you!"

"Don't be silly!" called Clarabel. "What are you doing?"

"I'm shutting my eyes," said Thomas. "But I still know where we are. We're just coming up to the bend and..."

"The signal!" shouted Annie. "There was a signal!"

"I'm sure it was pointing down too, Thomas!" shouted Clarabel.



"Don't be silly," said Thomas. "There would never be a stop signal here, would there?" He opened his eyes just in case, and what did he see?

Edward was stopped on the line just in front of him!

Screech! Thomas's driver put on the brakes. He must have missed the signal too! Thomas stopped just in time.

"What are you doing here, Edward?" asked Thomas crossly.

"I've brought some men to work on the line," said Edward. "But what are you doing here, Thomas? Did you miss the signal?"

"Yes, I probably did," said Thomas. "Please don't tell the Fat Controller, but I'm afraid I was pulling the train with my eyes closed which was very silly indeed!"

"I'm glad you opened your eyes in time to see me in front of you, otherwise you would have caused an accident," said Edward. Thomas decided never to close his eyes when working on the line again!

THE END

SUBSCRIPTION PAGE!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS MAGAZINE

- HAVE EVERY ISSUE SENT STRAIGHT TO YOUR HOME!
- YOUR CHILD BECOMES AN AUTOMATIC MEMBER OF THE THOMAS CLUB!
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Name

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PHOTO

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Every fortnight!

YES! I should like my child to receive every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine by post and should like to take out a year's subscription. I enclose a cheque/postal order for **£15.00** to include postage and packing. Overseas subscribers **£30.00**. Please enrol my child as an immediate member of the **Thomas Club** if he/she does not already belong. I look forward to receiving our splendid **membership card!**

Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... Age of child .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Signature I AM OVER 18 .....

Please make cheques/ postal orders payable to **Marvel Comics Ltd.**

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MasterCard.

I wish to pay by Visa/MasterCard; please charge to my account. My card number is (13 or 16 digits):

Signature Expiry date /

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This perfect complement to your child's favourite fortnightly magazine is full of educational features, delightful activities and big, colourful pictures!

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compendium edition (subject to availability)

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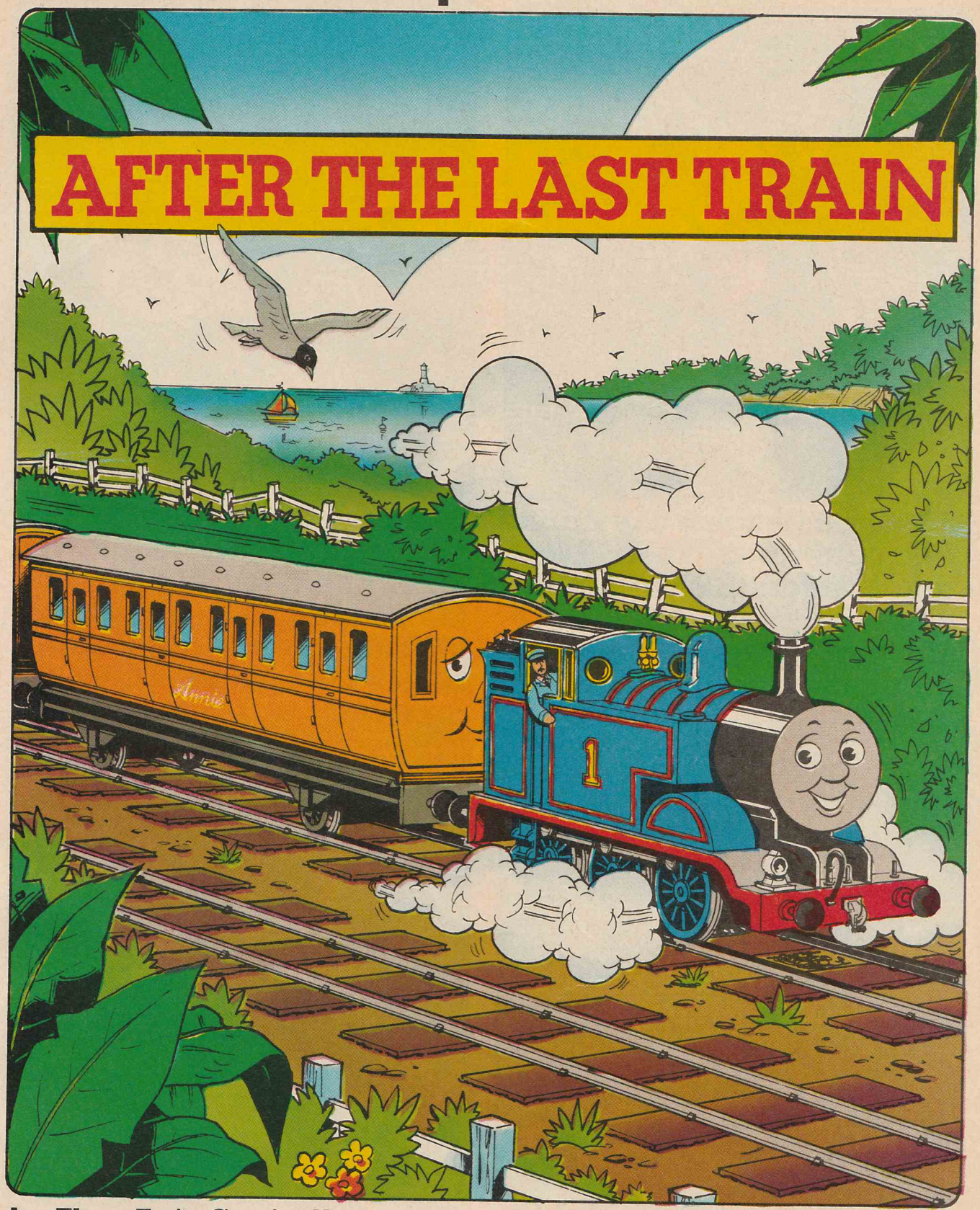
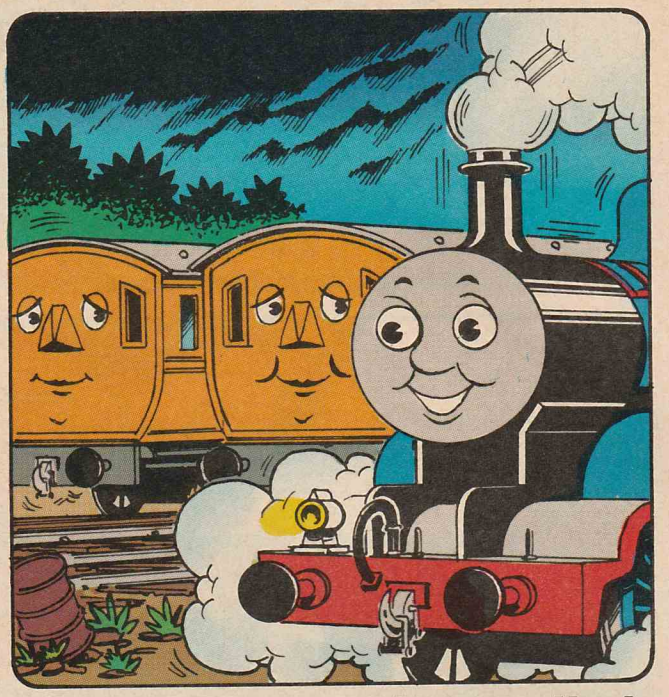
A listen and look story!



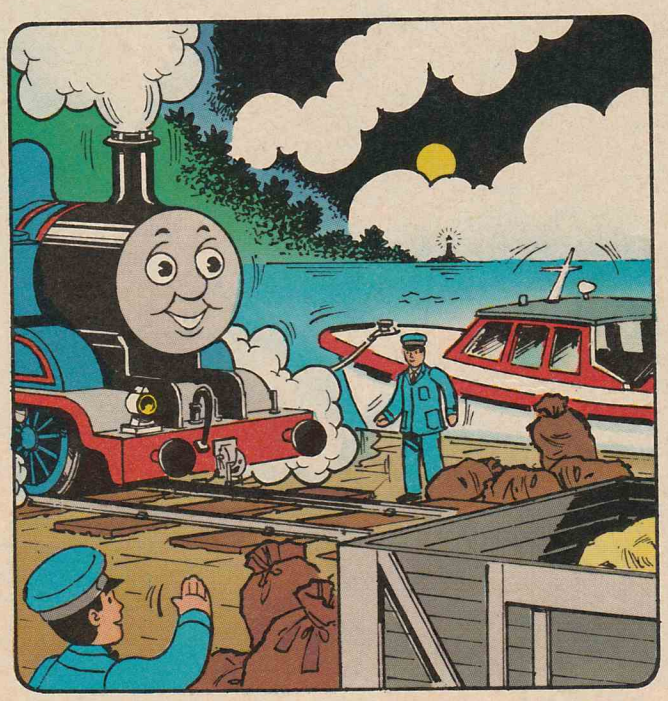
1. The Fat Controller says Thomas is a Really Useful Engine. Most of the time this is true but Thomas has been known to be a rather cheeky tank engine too!

2. Thomas is very proud of his own branch line on the Island of Sodor. He carries lots of passengers in his two faithful coaches, Annie and Clarabel.

3. The passengers like Annie and Clarabel. Their seats are comfortable and they always sing clickety clackety songs as they roll along the track.

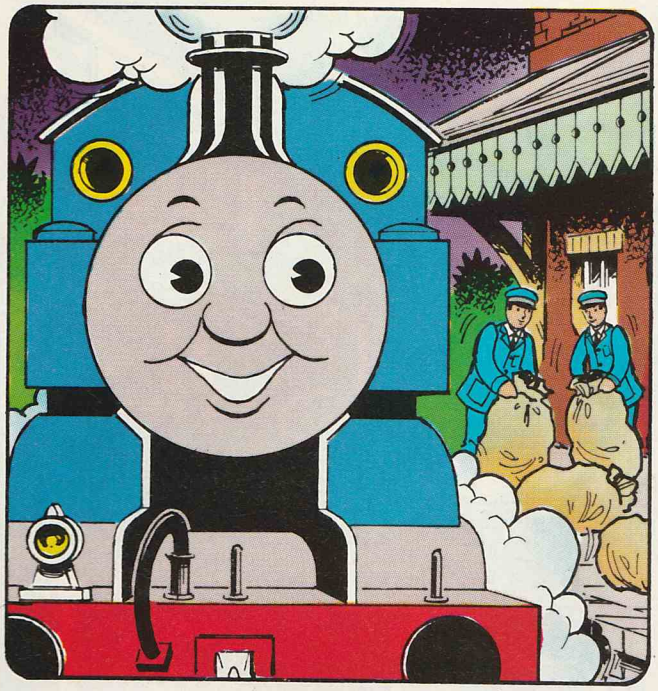


4. After Thomas has pulled the last train at night, he takes Annie and Clarabel to their siding. Then he goes to his shed to get some sleep before the next busy day.

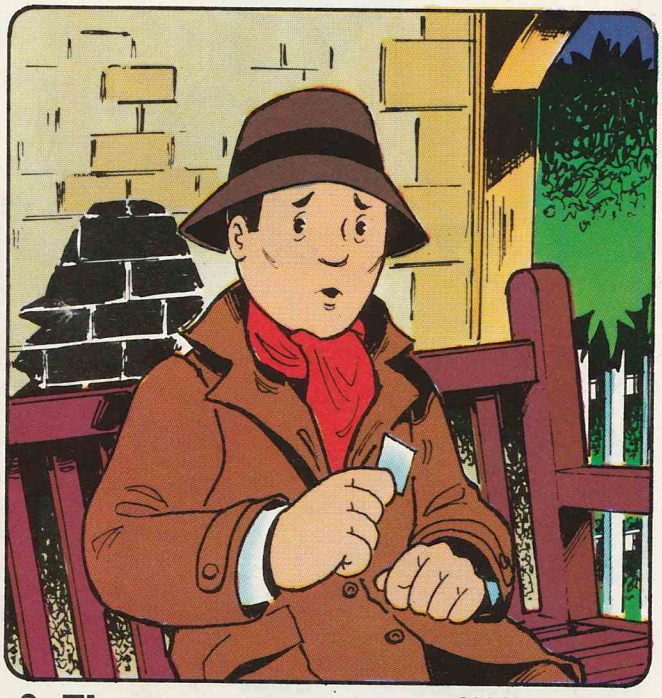


5. Some nights the Fat Controller asks Thomas to take the post train. Thomas must then go to the Big Harbour to collect the post that arrives by boat.

6. The post train runs all along the main line making stops. It also goes along some of the branch lines as well, bringing the post to other towns.



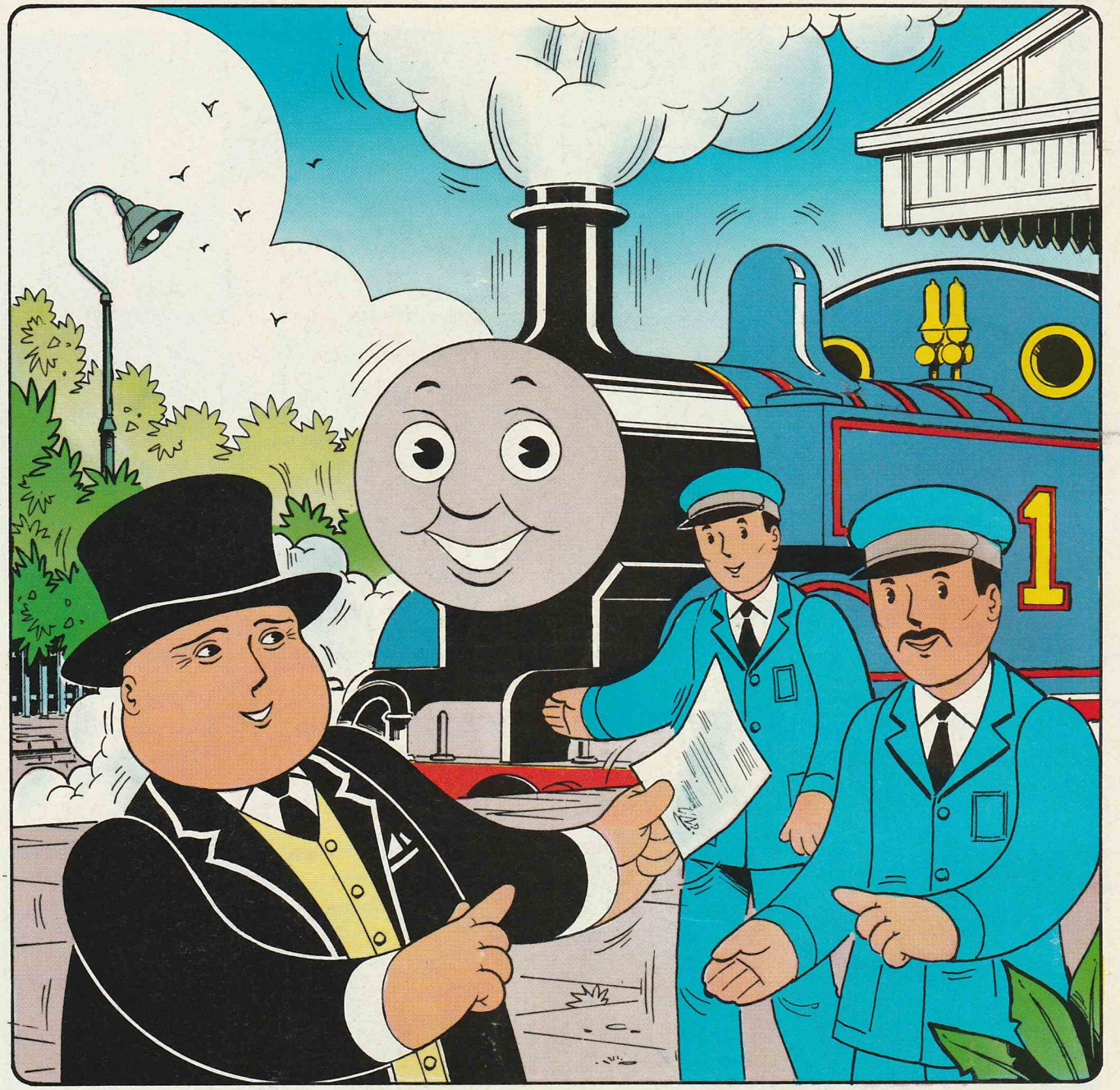
7. One night when Thomas was pulling the post train, he stopped at one of the stations on his journey. As the men unloaded the post Thomas noticed something.



8. There was a man sitting on a bench in the corner of the platform. He was holding a ticket in his hand and he looked cold. He also looked rather worried.

9. Thomas's driver also spotted the man and went over to see him. "Have I missed the last passenger train?" the man asked. "Yes," replied the driver.

10. Thomas's driver went to talk to the guard. After a moment they returned to the man. "We can give you a lift but the post train is slow," said the driver.



11. "I don't mind," said the man, standing up. "It is very helpful of you." "The post trucks are not like Annie and Clarabel! There are no soft seats," said the guard. The man didn't mind at all. "I've still got my ticket if you wish to see it," he said. "You won't be needing a ticket at this time of night," laughed the guard.

12. A few days later, the Fat Controller came to see Thomas and his driver and guard. "Well done, Thomas!" said the Fat Controller. "Thank you, sir. But what for, sir?" asked Thomas. "I have just had a nice letter from a man who rode in your post truck," explained the Fat Controller. "What a useful engine you are!"

THE END

In our next issue: Duck and the crane!